



STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

CHARLES W. SCHOLZ
Chairman

IAN K. LINNABARY
Vice Chairman

STEVEN S. SANDVOSS
Executive Director

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100 W. Randolph Street
Suite 14-100
Chicago, Illinois 60601
312-814-6440

2329 S. MacArthur Blvd.
Springfield, Illinois 62704
217-782-4141
www.elections.il.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Matt Dietrich
(217) 558-1955
mdietrich@elections.il.gov

NEW MEMBERS JOIN STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS; CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR ELECTED

SPRINGFIELD (July 1, 2019) -- The Illinois State Board of Elections on Monday added two former state senators to its eight-member board and elected a new board chair and vice-chair for the 2019-2021 term.

Former Sens. Laura Kent Donahue of Quincy and William Haine of Alton were sworn into four-year terms by retired Sangamon County Circuit Judge Leslie Graves. Donahue, a Republican who served in the Senate from 1981 to 2002, and Haine, a Democrat who served from 2002 to 2018, were appointed to the board by Gov. JB Pritzker and received unanimous confirmation by the Illinois Senate on May 27.

Also sworn in for four-year terms were current members William Cadigan, a Republican who was originally appointed to the board in 2015 and served as chair for the past two years, and William McGuffage, a Democrat who has served on the board since 1998. They also were unanimously confirmed on May 27.

"As a state senator I lived under the regulations of the State Board of Elections and followed its rules," Donahue said. "I'm honored to be a member of the board that oversees those rules."

Haine said his experience with the State Board of Elections dates back to his time as Madison County State's Attorney from 1988 to 2002, when he worked with local election boards and frequently consulted the state board.

"The gold standard for election regulation is Illinois," Haine said. "I hope I can contribute to keeping the same standards."

In its first official action, the newly constituted board elected member Charles Scholz to a two-year term as chair and member Ian Linnabary as vice-chair. Scholz, a Democrat from Quincy, has been a board member since 2011 and was chairman from 2015 to 2017.

“I’m looking forward to working with our distinguished members and Vice Chairman Linnabary on a bipartisan basis,” Scholz said. “Our primary challenge is to safeguard the election process.”

Linnabary, a Republican from Rockford, joined the board in 2017.

“I’m deeply honored that my fellow board members thought enough of me to nominate and elect me to the position,” Linnabary said. “I look forward to continuing the collaborative, bipartisan working relationship of the last chairman and vice chairman.”

Haine succeeds John Keith of Springfield, who had served four separate terms on the board dating back to 1987. Donahue succeeds Andrew Carruthers of Edwardsville, a board member since 2015. Other current board members are Republican Katherine O’Brien of Winnetka and Democrat Casandra B. Watson of Chicago.

Though the State Board of Elections is a nonpartisan agency, its board of is composed of four Democrats and four Republicans who are appointed to four-year terms by the governor and whose appointments are subject to Illinois Senate confirmation. The chairmanship rotates every two years between Democrats and Republicans.

The State Board of Elections is an independent state agency charged with the responsibility of having general supervision over the administration of election laws of the State of Illinois. Elections are administered locally by the State’s 108 election authorities.

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